roar of the waterfall. These calls were very similar to those of the House Swift and quite unlike the calls of the much less vocal *Collocalia* and *Aerodramus* swiftlets, whose calls are not so loud.

These observations confirm the utility of removing *gigas* from the genus *Collocalia* (Brooke 1972, Medway & Pye 1977). Further, while the flight differences could be an effect of larger body size, they do suggest that the generic affinities of *Hydrochous* may be open to re-interpretation and that it may not be a swiftlet at all – indeed, whatever *gigas*'s true affinities, it in fact looks like a swift, rather than a swiftlet, in the field.

Thus I recommend that *Hydrochous gigas* be called the Waterfall Swift, which alludes to its roosting and nesting site. Whether *gigas* is more closely related to the swiftlets or to one of the swift groups, I believe it more useful for its English name to reflect its appearance in life rather than its evolutionary history.

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A new tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes*) from northeastern Brazil

by Dante Martins Teixeira

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In the last 7 years, the Ornithological Section of Museu Nacional has made several expeditions to the residual Atlantic forests of Alagoas, Pernambuco and Paraiba, in extreme northeastern Brazil. As mentioned by Teixeira & Gonzaga (1983a, 1983b, 1985), these researches led to the discovery of undescribed taxa and also birds never previously reported north of the São Francisco River (Teixeira *et al.* 1986), probably part of an unexplored highland endemic avifauna, only the coastal lowlands having previously been investigated ornithologically. In 1983, 1984 and 1985, the field work performed in the highland forests (550 m) of ''Serra Branca'', county of Murici (c. 9°15′S,

35°50′W), Alagoas, led to the obtention of a new tyrannulet of the genus *Phylloscartes,* described below. I have named it in memory of my wife, Cecilia Torres (1952–1985).

Long-tailed Tyrannulet **Phylloscartes ceciliae** sp. nov.

Holotype. Museu Nacional No 34041. Inactive adult male (gonads 2 mm) from "Serra Branca", Murici, Alagoas, northeastern Brazil (c. 9°15′S, 35°50′W), collected 8 May 1984. Total length 131 mm. Weight 8.4 g. Skull ossified. Moulting crown, neck, breast, upper wing coverts, inner secondaries, ultimate and penultimate primaries.

Paratypes. Museu Nacional No 34042. Inactive adult male (gonads 2 mm) from the type locality, collected 9 May 1984. Total length 124 mm. Weight 8.4 g. Skull ossified. Moulting crown, back, breast and the right ante-penultimate primary.

Museu Nacional No 34043. Inactive adult female (ovary 3 mm) collected together with the holotype on 8 May 1984. Total length 119 mm. Weight 7.2 g. Skull ossified. Moulting crown, throat, back, breast and the right central rectrix.

Museu Nacional No 34044. Inactive adult female (ovary 3 mm) collected together with male No 34042 on 9 May 1984. Total length 115 mm. Weight 6.8 g. Skull ossified. Moulting crown, back, secondaries and the 3 outer primaries.

Museu Nacional No 34045. Young male from the type locality, collected 20 November 1983. Total length 124 mm. Weight 8.0 g. Skull non-ossified. Moulting neck, secondaries and under wing coverts.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality. The first *Phylloscartes* from northeastern Brazil.

Description of Holotype. For some colours I use the code in Villalobos & Villalobos (1947). Crown, mantle, back, rump and upper tail coverts dark green (L-9-3°), the feathers inconspicuously streaked with matt black along the basal portion of the rachis. Superciliary stripe, face and ear coverts whitish, the latter 2 areas conspicuously marked with ashy black in a rather intricate pattern: an ocular stripe (through the eye) is connected to the upper portion of a crescent formed by the ashy black tips of the ear coverts, the lower end of which is continued as a narrow line, curving forward and upward to join the ocular stripe in the lores near the eye; behind the eye, the ocular stripe and this curved line are interconnected by a narrow oblique stripe (Fig. 1).

Throat, foreneck and breast whitish, washed with dark green on the sides of breast; rest of underparts white, washed with a very light lemon yellow (YYL-19-12°) on the abdomen and crissum. Lesser upper wing coverts dark green with blackish bases. Alula, median and greater (upper) wing coverts of outer primaries black bordered with dark green; the other median and greater

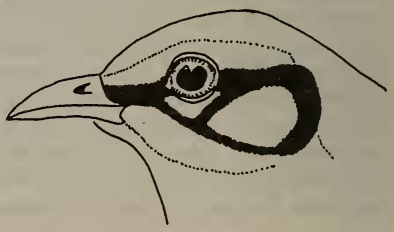

Figure 1. The head of *Phylloscartes ceciliae* sp. nov. emphasising the ashy black markings (see text). Holotype (MN No 34041) adult male. (Drawing by J. Nacinovic.)

(upper) wing coverts are black with a broad light greenish yellow (YYL-18-8°) tip, forming a conspicuous double wing bar. Primaries and outer secondaries black with yellowish green (YL-16-11°) fringes and with the inner web bordered with whitish. Inner secondaries similar, but with the yellowish green fringes becoming a broad white terminal spot on the outer web of the feather. Wing lining and under wing coverts whitish washed with lemon yellow like the abdomen. Tail black with yellowish green borders to the rectrices. Iris chestnut; bill black; tarsus dark bluish grey.

As noted in other species of *Phylloscartes* (*apud* Hellmayr 1927), the males, females and immatures of *P. ceciliae* appear identical in plumage, and it was impossible to observe any significant difference between the holotype and the above mentioned paratypes. Regarding the soft parts, all adult paratypes have iris, bill and tarsus the same colour as the holotype. Only the immature specimen collected (MN No 34045) has the bill blackish, with the tomia and base of the mandible horn whitish; tarsus grey instead of bluish grey.

Diagnosis. Differs from all other 9 South American species of *Phylloscartes* (not including *Pogonotriccus, Leptotriccus* and *Capsiempsis,* as proposed by Traylor 1977, 1979) by the combination of whitish underparts with the presence of 2 wing bars, plain dark green upperparts and the pattern of head and face. The general aspect of its plumage resembles *Phylloscartes difficilis,* which also has whitish underparts but is easily distinguishable from *P. ceciliae* by the absence of wing bars. Also *Phylloscartes nigrifrons* has whitish underparts and even a double wing bar, but its head pattern (frontal band black, cap grey etc) is obviously different.

The other 7 South American species of the genus *Phylloscartes* (*sensu stricto*) differ from *P. ceciliae* in many characters. *P. oustaleti* and *paulistus* have no wing bars, their underparts are yellow and the facial pattern quite distinct. *P. ventralis* has 2 yellowish wing bars, but its underparts are yellow and the facial pattern distinct. *P. roquettei* has a double wing bar, but its underparts also are yellow, and the forehead, lores and ocular region are rufous. *P. virescens* and *chapmani* also have a double wing bar (ochraceous instead of yellowish in the latter species), but their underparts are mainly yellow and with a greyish white chin (*P. chapmani*) or throat (*P. virescens*). Finally *P. superciliaris* has no wing bars, its crown is greyish black to grey, its lores and eyebrow are rufous etc. (See also Meyer de Schauensee 1970 and Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps Jr. 1978).

Measurements (mm). Holotype (MN 34041) adult male: exposed culmen 10.5; wing (flat) 58.0; tail 57.7; tarsus 16.7.

Paratype (MN 34042) adult male: exposed culmen 10.7; wing (flat) 56.5; tail 56.4; tarsus 17.5.

Paratype (MN 34043) adult female: exposed culmen 9.1; wing (flat) 50.6; tail 50.2; tarsus 16.7.

Paratype (MN 34044) adult female: exposed culmen 9.8; wing (flat) 51.3; tail 51.5; tarsus 16.1.

Paratype (MN 34045) young male: exposed culmen 10.3; wing (flat) 52.3; tail 53.8; tarsus 16.6.

Compared with *P. difficilis,* the measurements of *P. ceciliae* show no significant difference. The males seem to be slightly larger than females, which is shown in the total length and weight of collected specimens (see above). The measurements of both sexes of *P. ceciliae* are compared in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Measurements (mm) of *Phylloscartes ceciliae* sp. nov.

	Males (n = 3)			Females (n = 2)		
		$\bar{X}$	SD		$\bar{X}$	SD
Wing (flat)	58.0–52.3	55.6	2.41	51.3–50.6	50.9	0.35
Tail	57.7–53.8	55.9	1.62	51.5–50.2	50.8	0.65
Tarsus	17.5–16.6	16.9	0.40	16.7–16.1	16.9	0.20
Exposed culmen	10.7–10.3	10.5	0.16	9.8–9.1	9.4	0.35

Additional remarks. P. ceciliae seems to be an endemic of highland forest (550 m) in northeastern Brazil, where it is rather common, at least in the type locality; however, it is difficult to locate on account of its small size and arboreal habits, inhabiting the tops of medium strata trees. Like other species of the genus, *P. ceciliae* often joins mixed flocks of other Tyrannidae (*Rhytipterna simplex, Contopus cinereus, Elaenia* sp.), and also Dendrocolaptidae (*Lepidocolaptes fuscus*), Furnariidae (*Philydor novaesi, Automolus leucophthalmus*), Formicariidae (*Thamnomanes caesius, Myrmotherula unicolor, Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus, Terenura sicki*), Sylviidae (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) and Coerebidae (*Coereba flaveola*). *P. ceciliae* scans the surface of leaves and branches for small insects, which compose its diet. If excited, this bird keeps its tail obliquely pointed up, as noticed in other species of the genus (*P. difficilis, P. ventralis*). The vocalizations of *P. ceciliae* are not characteristic:– a peeping sequence "djü, djü . . ." sometimes sharper and faster "ürürüt, ürürüt . . ." and an inconspicuous and isolate "thüp".

Very little is known of the breeding biology of *Phylloscartes* as a whole (see Ihering 1904 and Rodolfo de la Peña 1979), and *P. ceciliae* is no exception. The immature bird (MN No 34045) collected on 20 November 1983 was being fed by 2 adults in the tree tops. The small size of gonads of the adults collected in May 1984, and also the intense moult recorded for these specimens, suggest a breeding period between September and February, as observed for other northeastern Brazilian forest birds. Perhaps pairs of *P. ceciliae* remain together longer than expected, since pairs were collected in May 1984 following mixed flocks, and several other possible pairs were observed, also following mixed flocks, in May and April 1984.

Even though *Phylloscartes* is a widely distributed genus in South America, it was not previously reported from northeastern Brazil. Four of the 9 South American species occur in Guianan forests (*P. virescens*), in the tepuis of the borders between Brazil and Venezuela (*P. chapmani* and *P. nigrifrons*), and in northwestern Venezuela and Colombia to Central America (*P. superciliaris*). Three others are endemic to the Atlantic forests south of the São Francisco River: 2 in southeastern Brazil (*P. difficilis* and *P. oustaleti*), and also one extending into eastern Paraguay (*P. paulistus*). The remaining 2 South American species have a peculiar distribution: *P. roquettei* is known only from Brejo Januária, western Minas Gerais; and *P. ventralis* occurs from central Peru to northern and eastern Bolivia, Paraguay, northern Argentina and eastern Brazil, from Minas Gerais to Rio Grande do Sul (see also Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Pinto 1944).

As mentioned by Teixeira *et al.* (1986), the endemic bird species of northeastern Brazilian highland forests are more closely related to those of Atlantic forests south of the São Francisco River than to the "Amazonian"

avifauna of the adjacent lowland forests. The discovery of *P. ceciliae* as an endemic species of the highland forests seems to reinforce this proposal, since preliminary studies indicate that this new species is apparently closely related to *P. difficilis,* an endemic species from the coastal mountains of southeastern and southern Brazil (from Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro to São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul, *apud* Pinto 1944, Sick 1984 and Belton 1985). The same pattern (2 vicariant taxa, replacing each other north and south of the São Francisco River) was also observed in other cases (*apud* Teixeira & Gonzaga 1983a, b, 1985). This phenomenon is also very well marked by the discovery, in the highlands, of several birds never previously reported north of the São Francisco River (Teixeira *et al.* 1986).

Finally, we would like to stress that the Atlantic forests of northeastern Brazil are today in the final stages of destruction. Without a radical reversal of current trends, the last forest remnants are unlikely to survive more than a few years and the establishment of protected areas for both lowland and highland forest endemic avifauna is an urgent need.

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